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HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL SERVICE SCHOOLS



HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL SERVICE TRAINING SCHOOLS

By SMSgt Cathey J. Crowder

This history portrays the vision, determination and selfless efforts of a handful of men whose purpose and resolve would not be shaken despite innumerable difficulties. Devoted to the cause of medical training, it is their hope that they contributed in some small measure to the splendid record of achievement of the Medical Department of the Army Air Force (AAF) in preserving life and maintaining health during World War II. 1

Injected throughout this paper are some points of interest that includes some specifically mentioned enlisted Air Force members contributions. There are also copies of pictures during different phases of the beginning programs.

The AAF Medical Service Training School was established in 1942, later designated as the 25th AAF Base Unit, Robins Field, Georgia. Enlisted training was first accomplished by the staff of each provisional company organized to quarter, ration, and train enlisted personnel. At one time there were seven such companies, housing approximately 2200 enlisted men. In order to better organize personnel for continuous and progressive training certain companies were designated to conduct specific types of training, i.e., basic, technical, tactical, and unit. The organization and training of Medical Platoon (Aviation) was accomplished by one company designated for that particular mission. Definite training courses could not be established since directives were scant and vague in content and student arrivals and departures occurred daily. All training was scheduled week by week and was continuous and progressive for any given group of enlisted men. 1

In November 1942, it became apparent that various medical departments specialists would have to receive technical training at the Medical Training Section, since enlisted men were reporting to this station primarily as basic soldiers. Very few technicians reported to the Training Section and when technicians did arrive, they were more often than not a type not authorized by tactical Tables of Organizations or in far too many number to be utilized in their specialty (that this time not medical). Consequently, in order to fulfill unit commitments and supply request for casual specialists, technical schools were organized and classes began. Those technical school made no effort whatever to accomplish that type of training given in hospitals and Army Service Forces Schools, but rather attempted to familiarize the non-specialist with that field equipment and those technical procedures pertaining to his

assignment in a tactical organization. Men were, therefore, prepared as potential specialists in the various medical and non-medical Medical Occupation Specialty's (MOS's) found in Air Services Command tactical medical sections and Medical Platoon (Aviation). 1

From March 1943 to September 1943, enlisted training took precedence over all other type of training. During this period the training course later known as the "AAF Medical Service Training Field Course" was evolved. It became more evident that certain specialists could not be developed in a field environment where no actual patients were available; similarly it was apparent that hospital trained specialists could not perform efficiently in "field units" unless adapted for this duty in a field school or training section. It was further apparent that this "adaptation" should if possible be given as a course of training prior to selecting unit personnel because units so organized were far superior to those having non-skilled personnel assigned first and then training those enlisted men for specialized duties after assignment. The "Field Training Course" was so developed and consisted of a definite period of technical adaptation in specific MOS schools, common basic, tactical, and technical medical instruction for all specialist together with bivouacs for practical application of knowledge previously gained.

Statistically, during the official life of the Air Service Command Medical Training Section, 4669 enlisted received training in various types and for variable periods. The Medical Training Section continuously improved its teaching methods, developed its operating facilities, and revised and improved its courses. 2

The Medical Technical School was to instruct and train medical corpsman (similar to our Independent Duty Medical Technician Course today), medical technicians and surgical technicians for duty with field units of the Army Air Forces. This school is under the direction of Captain Clyde W. Muter, MC. The course consists of 88 hours of instructions to further educate already trained technicians. This comparatively short period makes it imperative that only men with previous training as medical or surgical technicians be enrolled. The main purpose of this course is to convert the hospital trained technicians to the field. They must become proficient in the art of bandaging, rendering emergency care; administering of medications by mouth, hypodermically, and intravenously; care of fractures, control of hemorrhaging; general knowledge of anesthesia; principles of immunizations; field treatment of chemical casualties; treatment of combat and non-combat casualties; management of war neurosis; complete knowledge of prophylaxis and the venereal diseases; diagnosis, symptoms and treatment of malaria; field medical records, and proficient in all regular nursing procedures. 2

PERSONNEL OF THE MEDICAL DISPENSARY (AVN)

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3100



3170



673

DM



2120



825



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060



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MESS



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ACTG 1ST SGT



196

SANITATION



661



409



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WING, SURGERY & FIELD WARDS



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X-RAY

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657(FSA)
FLIGHT
EXAM



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ORDERLIES, UTILITY,
AMBULANCES



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DENTAL
DISPENSARY SEC



ATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MEDICAL DISPENSARY (AVN)

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4 DECEMBER 1944

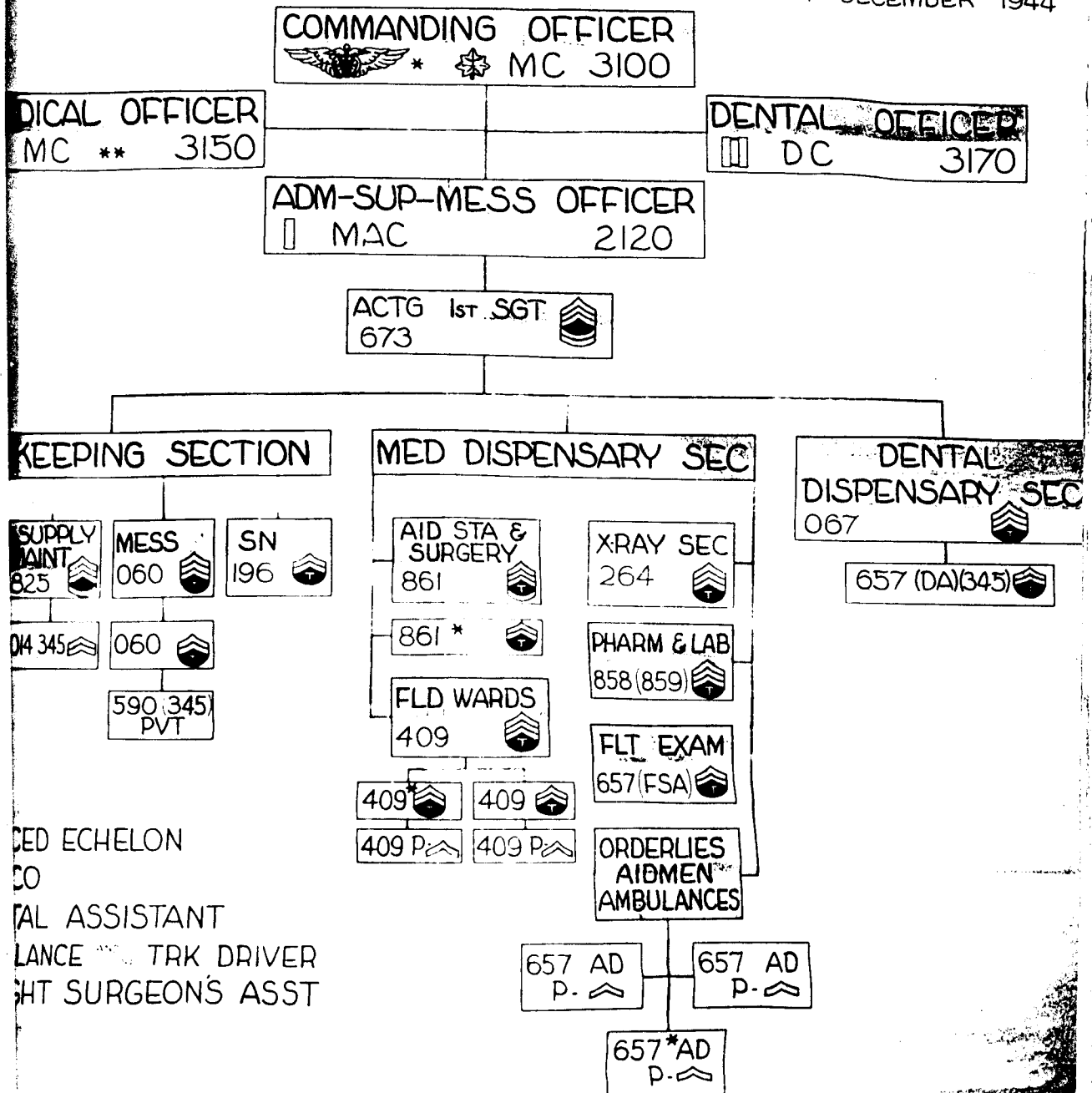
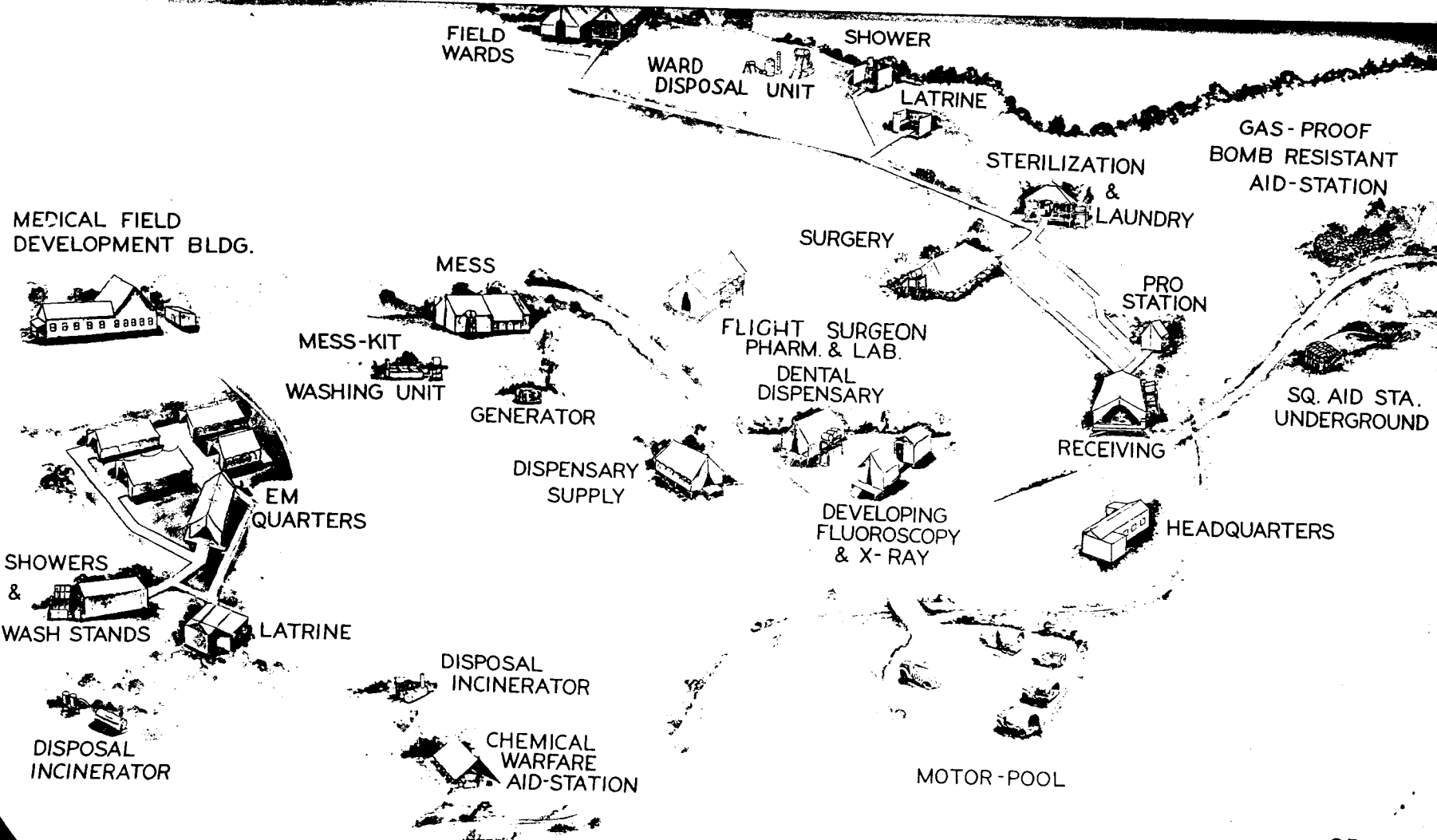


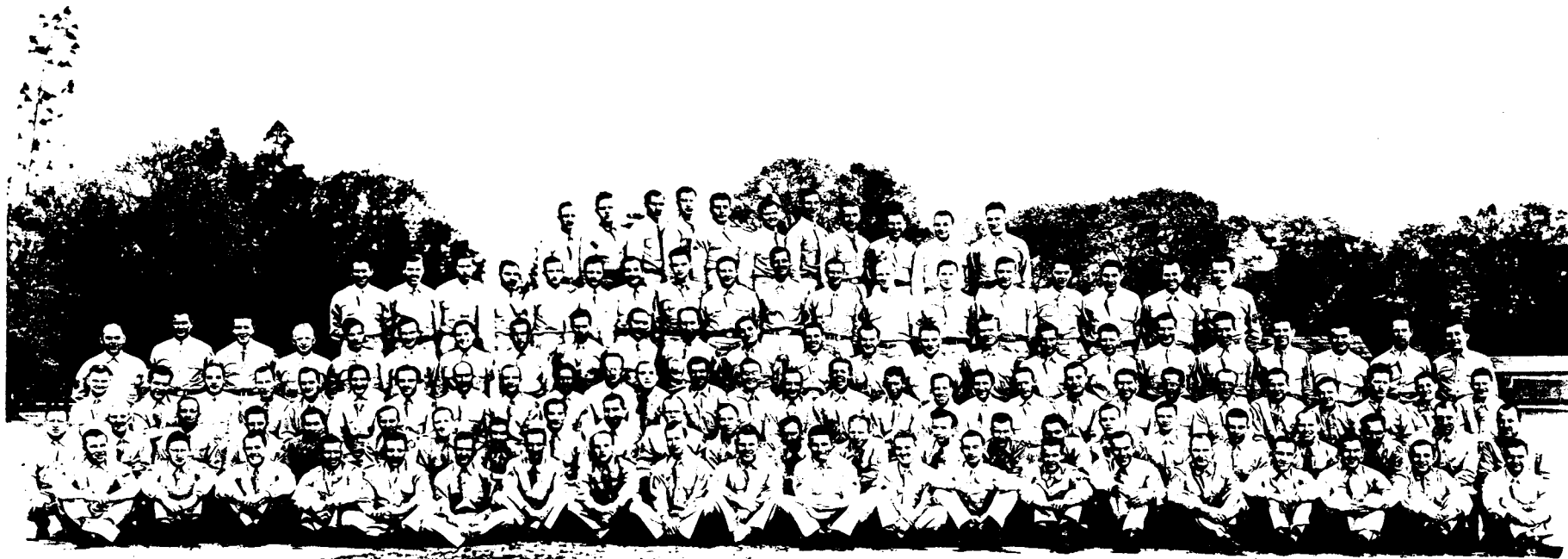
Figure 2



THE AAF MEDICAL SERVICE TRAINING SCHOOL

ENLISTED STAFF

1st Sgt Barnes, James L.	Sgt Williams, William J.
1st Sgt Stearn, Gus G.	Sgt Zelley, Norman J. Jr.
T Sgt Cavanagh, John F.	Cpl Basco, Dominic R.
T Sgt Gunn, Joseph D.	Cpl Bingham, Allen E.
T Sgt Lingrel, LaMoyno A.	Cpl Branken, Walter F.
T Sgt Minor, Michael	Cpl Christianson, John H.
S Sgt Feit, Benjamin	Cpl Davis, Raymond W.
S Sgt Gavin, John G.	Cpl DeRoth, Gerardus
S Sgt Grice, Edwin	Cpl Holt, Willie E. Jr.
S Sgt Hughes, Cloo H.	Cpl Howard, Sargent, J.
S Sgt Hunter, Walter H.	Cpl Koidel, Emil H.
S Sgt Lesko, George F.	Cpl Landry, Lloyd
S Sgt McPherson, Frank I.	Cpl Murphy, Jack J.
S Sgt Molinaro, Anthony A.	Cpl Poller, Sigmund P.
S Sgt Nagrant, Peter	Cpl Richoe, William L.
S Sgt Sherwin, Leonard J.	Cpl Schnurbusch, Ellsworth F.
S Sgt Thompson, William A.	Cpl Smith, George E.
S Sgt Tutwiler, Warren C.	Cpl Taylor, Morton L.
S Sgt Vassel, Steve G.	Cpl Thomas, Wash
Sgt Babbitt, Charles M.	Cpl Walthour, Earl G.
Sgt Bonacci, Patsy	Tec 5 Byrnes, Patrick J.
Sgt Branchini, Caesar	Tec 5 Chaix, Alonzo, H.
Sgt Clayton, Clarence W.	Tec 5 Earl, Richard F.
Sgt Crank, Terrell H.	Tec 5 Gross, Clarence E.
Sgt Davis, Orville J.	Tec 5 Haga, Emory V.
Sgt DiVirgilio, James W.	Tec 5 Pennington, Joe A.
Sgt Dott, Francis. L.	Tec 5 Roberts, John E.
Sgt Figge, Harvey W.	Tec 5 Scarberry, Marion
Sgt Frenk, Charles E.	Tec 5 Spivey, Joseph T.
Sgt Frick, John L.	Tec 5 Viotti, Rodolfo P.
Sgt Geyer, George P.	Tec 5 Vollmer, Clarence J.
Sgt Halker, Carl T.	Tec 5 Young, Andrew G.
Sgt Harris, Vance E.	Pfc Aumon, Edwin L.
Sgt Huffman, Richard M.	Pfc Barletta, George J.
Sgt Ketcham, James B.	Pfc Blanton, Charles E.
Sgt Kline, Russell W.	Pfc Bogenschultz, Christian E.
Sgt Leap, James F.	Pfc Bonhorst, Herman Jr.
Sgt Loudon, Walter E. Jr.	Pfc Gordon, Bruce T.
Sgt Mawhinney, Thomas L.	Pfc Griffin, Laurel C.
Sgt Miller, Buford D.	Pfc Hennelly, John P.
Sgt Miner, Marvin L.	Pfc Kernaghan, Bruce
Sgt Moore, Willie J.	Pfc Koster, August
Sgt Mulligan, James T.	Pfc Kulick, Michael
Sgt Page, James W. Jr.	Pfc Leffel, John W.
Sgt Pennell, Paul S.	Pfc Marchbanks, Dick H.
Sgt Ribolini, Umberto H.	Pfc DeVey, Samuel L.
Sgt Salerno, Daniel J.	Pfc Michalek, Andrew J.
Sgt Schmidt, Alwin C.	Pfc Nelson, Myron C.
Sgt Simac, Joseph G.	Pfc Rollo, Herbert J.
Sgt Summers, Arthur J.	Pfc Smith, Fred D.
Sgt Testa, Albert V.	Pfc Harden, Roland I.
Sgt Vonnaro, Felix J.	Pvt Sandkuhl, Harold R.
	Pvt Scozio, Michael J.



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Students perform duties in obstacle course conducted in bivouac
area of Medical Service School.



ted in bivouac

During 1944, seventeen (17) Unit Medical Dispensaries (Aviation) were activated. The primary course of instruction pursued by all Medical School Enlisted personnel ordered to the school is field training. the course is predicted upon the concept that each student has been trained in his Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) in an Army Air Forces Hospital, but not familiar with the equipment used, the techniques employed and the special problems peculiar to his specialty under field and combat conditions. In other words, this course of instruction is one of "field adaptation" and pre-unit training for a qualified hospital specialist. This course consist of 360 total training hours. A nine (9) hour training day, six (6) days per week for six (6) weeks. Additional night training periods for the remaining hours. The general scope of material includes basic, tactical, technical and bivouac training. 1

During 1945, the school underwent two reorganizations. The first, occurred during April, when the 4520th BU (Medical School) was officially absorbed by the 25th AAFBU (Medical Service Training School). The second, occurred during November and was the result of a reduced training mission incident to the termination of the war. One notable addition to the physical structure of the school was the Model Group Dispensary, developed as a Unit Training Area. Various training, supply, and housekeeping facilities were closed during November and December as requirements became less and less. 2

The Medical Corpsman School during 1945 only had one class held. Beginning with 92 men; only 32 completed the course, the remainder being withdrawn when they became ineligible for overseas duty. Throughout the history of this school, only four classes were trained. A total of 303 men successfully completed the training. This is similar to our Independent Duty Medical Technician course today. 2

Point of interest, a selection board was convened on 4 May 1960 to select the outstanding airman of the school to represent the Air Training Command at the annual Air Force Association Convention. Senior Master Sergeant George E. Lewis was nominated. Outstanding Airman Awards were presented to MSgt Sherrell A. Fowler, Outstanding Master Sergeant; TSgt James L. Douglas, Outstanding NCO; and AIC Jimmie S wages, Outstanding Airman. 10

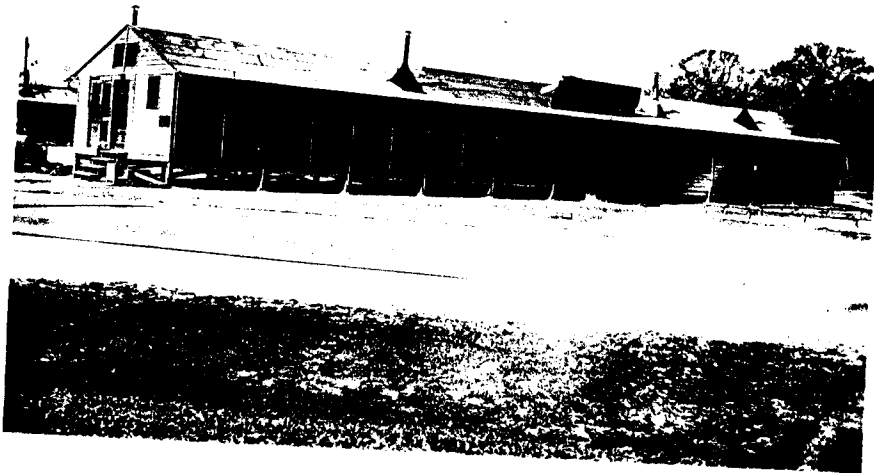
A Staff Study Report was done in April 1960 to Assemble information relating to possible relocation of the Medical Service School, USAF (ATC) from Gunter Air Force Base, Alabama, to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. 11

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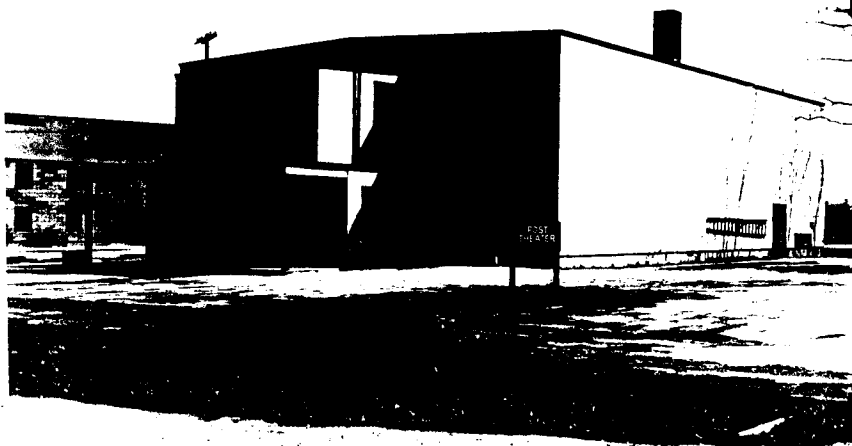
Outstanding Airman Awards were presented by
Colonel Harold V. Ellingson to MSgt Sherrell
A. Fowler, TSgt James L. Douglas and A1C
Jimmie S. Wages.



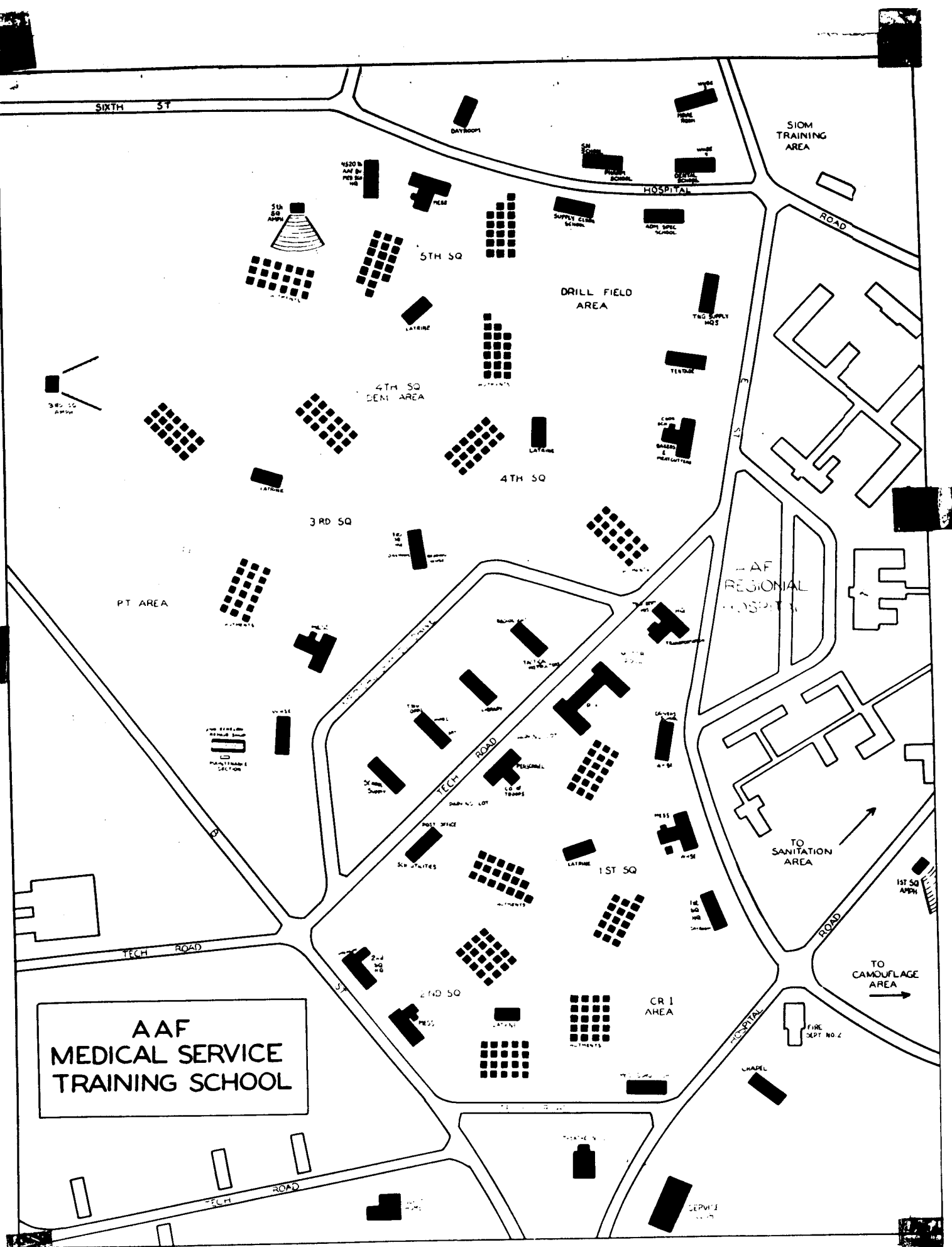
PHYSICAL STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL



Headquarters Building



Post Theater #2 - Utilized for School Training



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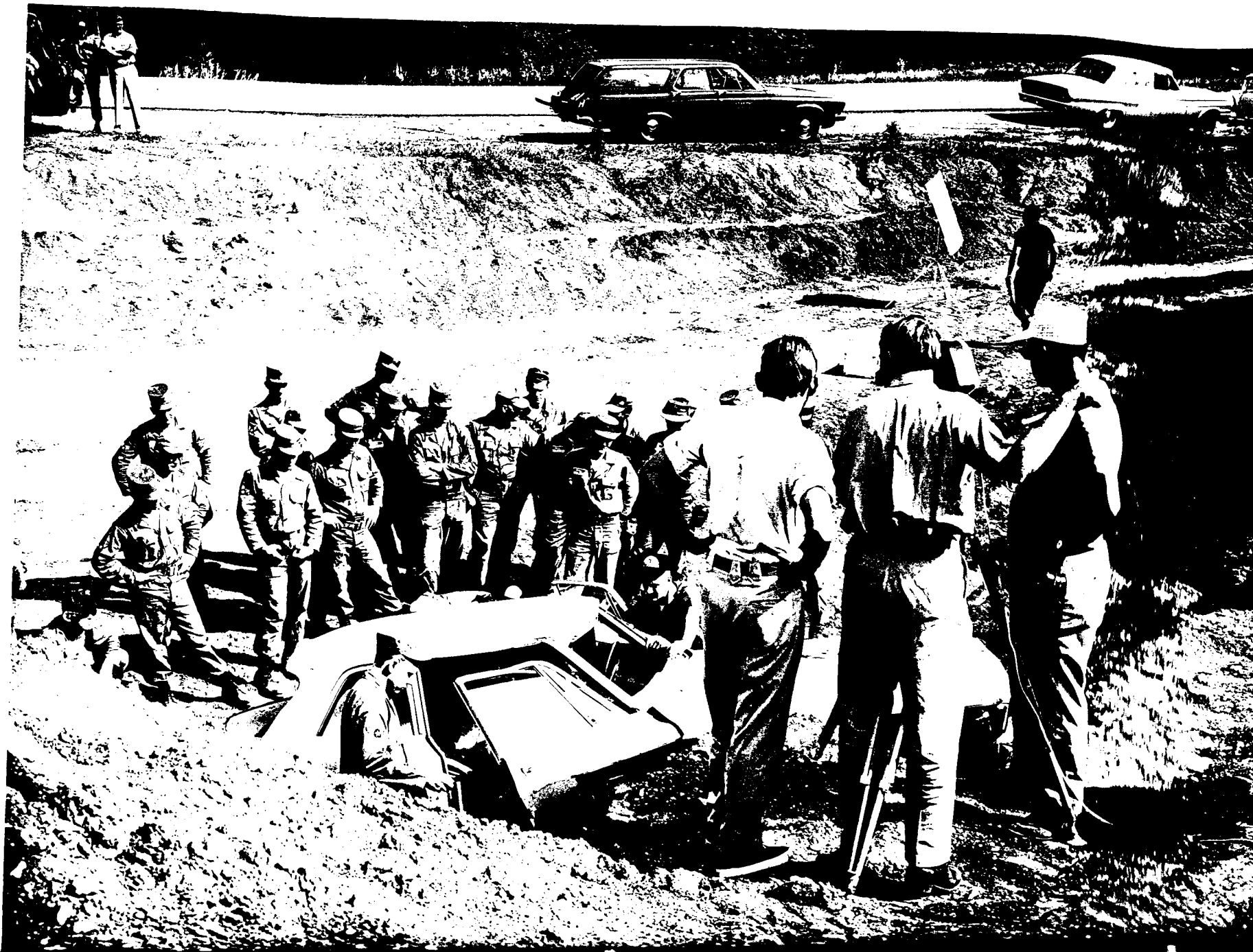
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Students receive instruction on proper patient care in the Model
Ward.









Headquarters USAF approved the Medical Service School's new organization emblem November 1960.

The emblem motto is SERVITUS PER SCIENTIAM - Services through Knowledge. 10

The Medical Helper Course, AQR 90010-1, was transferred from Greenville Air Force Base, Mississippi to the Medical Service School; due to the deactivation of Greenville AFB. The first class entered on 30 September 1964 with a programmed input of 85 students per week. A total of 11 classes graduated during this period from the Medical Service School. This amounted to an output of approximately 930 students who were either given technical school assignments or direct duty assignments. 6

Point of interest, on 26 February 1965, retirement ceremony was held for Master Sergeant Ruby Rutherford, Chief Clerk and WAF Coordinator for the 3790th School Squadron. MSgt Rutherford has been assigned to the school for ten years. 8

In 1966, the Medical Helper Course became a part of the grading program substantially increasing the workload. Six hundred fifty-three multiple choice tests totaling 27,400 test papers were graded; also 247 practical tests and 65 special tests (Otis, MMPI, etc.). A total of 38,680 student averages were computed and 70,000 student grades were recorded. A strenuous program of test review and revision continued, in conjunction with this program 481 tests received detailed statistical analysis. These analysis resulted in the revision of 64 test and the construction of 98 new tests by course personnel. A detailed study of weighted versus nonweighted grades was completed and forwarded for Faculty Board action. This study was sequentially implemented with a sizable savings in man-hours. Time savings was utilized in grading special tests, including new testing methods for programmed instructional lectures. 8

The Medical Helper Course was reorganized; 25 instructor spaces were re-allocated to the various teaching agencies in the school and 24 instructor personnel were also reassigned to these teaching agencies. A new Plan of instruction was written and tentatively approved. The Medical Helper Course 65-17 entered on 31 March 1965 and was the first class under the new Plan of Instruction. No major problems were encountered. Minor corrections were made and the Plan of Instruction was submitted for final publication on 21 June 1965. 7

Brigadier General Larry A. Smith, USAF, MC, Surgeon, ATC, visited the school 30n March 1965 to present the graduation address to four MSS classes and a group honoring the 75,000th graduate of the school. 7

Effective 1 May 1965, the following units at Gunter AFB, AL, were redesignated without change in location

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Headquarters USAF approved the Medical Service School's new organization emblem November 1960. The emblem motto is SERVITUS PER SCIENTIAM - Service through Knowledge.



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or assignment as per SPECIAL ORDER G-20, dated 25 February 1965:

<u>Old Designation</u>	<u>New Designation</u>
3790 School Squadron	3790 Student Squadron
3791 School Squadron	3793 Student Squadron
3792 School Squadron	3792 Student Squadron

After a sixteen year tenure at Gunter Air Force Base, Alabama, the Medical Service School USAF (ATC), was directed to move, permanent change of station, to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, between 1 March 1966 and 31 March 1966 per ATC Movement Order 2, 26 January 1966. As the personnel left for their new designation, they left a poem for the Medical Service School, USAF, Gunter AFB, Alabama's annual historical report. **8**

Approximately 20 percent of the 5,515 Medical Service School graduates continued to be assigned for SEA requirements. Increases were realized throughout the basic courses with the majority of them in the Medical Service Specialist Course. This training, the move from Gunter, and expansion of course lengths due to the introduction of the 6-hour, 5-day week created instructor shortages in several areas. These shortages are being alleviated through reassignments and assignment of additional instructors as they become available. The Training Section, in coordination with the Medical Service Specialist Course, developed new programmed instructional aids for the course. The STS was revised and approved on 12 May 1967. The new STS emphasized job performance and nursing procedures rather than general training. The desired result should be a more effective training program. The program's development was noted in the USAF IG Report. Effective 1 June 1967, the Medical Service Specialist Course also began participation in Project 100,000. **9**

Department of Nursing continued to provide nursing education in general and special areas at levels designated by AF Regulations. Upon completion of movement of nursing personnel to Sheppard; it permitted the department to introduce the concept of "course orientation". The primary problem that existed in this department was the high student-instructor ratio. This was especially prevalent in the Medical Service Specialist Course when the student entry rate reached 50 per week. Classrooms originally intended for a maximum of 30 students were over-crowded, resulting in unsatisfactory factors as was the situation in the hospital phase, where students were grouped together in large numbers. This resulted in too few instructors available to properly plan and supervise the

Pack up all our cares and woe
Here we go, driving slow
Bye-bye Gunter
Where tornadoes wait for thee
Flat as hell, without a tree
Hello Sheppard
Garland doesn't seem to understand us
Oh! What hard luck stories he can hand us
ADC is moving in
Hope they have luck with him
Gunter bye-bye --

We leave your confederacy
Texas bound for to see
Hello Sheppard
Wallace, Sir, we hate to say
But we're now for LBJ
Hello Sheppard
We sure hate to leave you when you need us
But some Air Force type has said that we must
It's OK we're used to it
We don't mind this moving bit
Sheppard Hello --

Lou will go, who knows where
We are left in despair
Bye, bye Gunter
Ben is here, never fear
He won't move for a year
Bye, bye Gunter
A. U. doesn't seem to understand us
Oh! What hard luck stories they can hand us
We all need security
We've found ours in ATC
Sheppard, hello --

Jeff is there, with M. S. S.
He's convinced, it's all a mess
Hello Sheppard
Rupe is left, he's feeling low
He's the one who will not go
Hello Sheppard
Who decided we must go to Texas
Must have been some young and eager smart ass
Pack the kids, and bitchy squaw
Here we come, Wichita
Sheppard, Hello.

students' practice on real patients. As of 1 May 1967, the ABR90230 Course quota was reduced from a maximum entry of 50 per class to 30, stabilizing the fluctuation of student entries. With this stabilization, supervised practice in the laboratories and hospital wards improved. 9

After the Medical Service School relocated to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, in 1966, this has been home to all enlisted medical services in resident courses.

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